

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AS-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-04

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /117 W

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R 181240Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4460

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, IC, GW

SUBJECT: FRG/ICELAND FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: FONMIN INFORMED EMBOFF THAT THE GOI AND FRG ARE QUITE CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT COVERING GERMAN FISHING WITHIN THE ICELANDIC 200 MILE FISHING LIMIT. GOI DELEGATION, LED BY FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON, WILL ARRIVE IN BONN NOVEMBER 18 FOR TALKS BEGINNING NOVEMBER 19. IT IS EXPECTED THAT AN AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED OR INITIALED AFTER THE TWO-DAY TALKS. FONMIN OFFICIALS ARE NOW PREPARING A DRAFT AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. ICELANDIC DESK OFFICER CALLED EMBOFF NOVEMBER 14
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TO REPORT ON OUTCOME OF TECHNICAL-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS HELD

IN REYKJAVIK LAST WEEK. WHILE CHARACTERIZING THE TALKS AS "INCONCLUSIVE" AND REACHING "NO IMMEDIATE RESULT", HE SAID THAT THE DIFFERENCES IN FISHING ZONES HAD NARROWED CONSIDERABLY. FURTHERMORE, THE PROSPECTS FOR AN AGREEMENT WERE ENHANCED BY THE DISCUSSIONS, WITH BOTH SIDES SENSING THAT AGREEMENT WAS AT HAND IF POLITICAL WILL PREVAILED ON REMAINING MINOR POINTS. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS OF THE GERMAN TECHNICAL DELEGATION, THE GOI WAS SO EAGER FOR AN AGREEMENT THAT FONMIN AGUSTSSON SOUGHT AND OBTAINED CABINET SUPPORT FOR A SECOND ROUND OF TALKS, BEGINNING NOVEMBER 19 IN BONN. THE GERMAN SIDE EXPECTS THAT THE GOI DELEGATION WILL CARRY AUTHORITY TO SIGN OR INITIAL A FINAL AGREEMENT.

3. REMAINING ISSUES: THE LOCATION OF FISHING ZONES IS NOW LARGELY A POLITICAL PROBLEM' WITH THE TWO SIDES NOW DISPUTING THE LENGTH OF TIME AND AMOUNT OF FISHING EFFORT NECESSARY FOR GERMAN TRAWLERS TO TAKE THE 60,000 MT LIMIT. LEGAL EXPERT IN FONMIN HINTED THAT THE FRG MAY BE FORTHCOMING ON THIS POINT IF GOI SHOWS FLEXIBILITY ON THE OTHER REMAINING ISSUE - LANGUAGE COVERING THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE 200 MILE ZONE. THE FRG INTENDS TO PROTECT ITS POSITION, WHICH IS TO REFUSE RECOGNITION OF THE 200 MILE LIMIT, BUT AT THE SAME TIME DESIRES TO APPEAR FORTHCOMING SO THAT THE GOI CAN SELL THE AGREEMENT TO THE ICELANDIC PUBLIC. LEGAL EXPERTS ARE NOW WORKING ON LANGUAGE THAT IS SUFFICIENTLY AMBIGUOUS TO MEET BOTH OBJECTIVES.

4. BRITISH POSITION: GERMAN AND BRITISH REPS AT SPECIAL EC MEETING ON FISH NOVEMBER 14 IN BRUSSELS HAD INTENDED TO HOLD SIDE DISCUSSIONS ON THE QUESTION OF A FRG/GOI AGREEMENT, BUT A MIX-UP ON TIMING REDUCED THE SESSION TO A 10-MINUTE CORRIDOR CONVERSATION. BRITISH TECHNICAL-LEVEL REP EXPRESSED "NO NEGATIVE REACTION" TO GERMAN INTENTION TO GO AHEAD WITH THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT, BUT COULD NOT COMMIT UK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 18792

SUPPORT. EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING NOVEMBER 17
IN LONDON WILL GIVE THE GERMANS AN OPPORTUNITY TO
RAISE THE MATTER AT A HIGHER LEVEL. IT IS NOT EXPECTED
THAT THE UK WILL ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE THE FRG FROM
SIGNING AN AGREEMENT. THE GERMANS ARE WELL AWARE THAT
THE CLAUSE IN THE FRG/GOI DRAFT AGREEMENT ALLOWING
FOR ABROGATION OF THE AGREEMENT IN THE EVENT THAT EC
PROTOCOL NO. 6 DOES NOT ENTER INTO FORCE WITHIN A
REASONABLE TIME PERIOD IS INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE
GERMANS TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE BRITISH TO REACH AGREE-
MENT. FONMIN, HOWEVER, DOES NOT INTEND TO DO THIS.
AFTER BEING IN THE REVERSE POSITION SINCE 1973, THE
FRG HAS CONSIDERABLE UNDERSTANDING FOR THE SITUATION
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WHICH THE BRITISH FACE.

5. BRITISH/GOI NEGOTIATIONS: LATEST READOUT AVAILABLE
TO THE FRG ON THESE NEGOTIATIONS CAME FROM FONMIN
LEGAL REP WHO PARTICIPATED IN BRUSSELS MEETING MENTIONED
ABOVE. HE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO NARROWING
OF THE POSITIONS ON TONNAGE, BUT THAT HATTERSLEY'S
DECISION TO MEET WITH THE GOI ON NOVEMBER 15 AND 16
INDICATED CONTINUED WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE UK
TO SEEK AGREEMENT. BRITISH REP AT BRUSSELS MEETING
INDICATED TO THE FRG REP THAT BIOLOGICAL EXPERTS HAD
FOUND POSSIBILITIES FOR NARROWING THE GAP DURING
SESSIONS EARLIER LAST WEEK.
HILLENBRAND

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